

Dear Sirs;

My husband and I drive a truck for a living. We haul ammunition and explosives. We depend on our XM radio for up-to-date traffic and weather reports. Not just for the area we are in, but also for the routes ahead and possible detouring we may need to take to avoid problems reported ahead. And we are not alone. Every driver in our company now has XM in the truck and depends on it the same way. You can not imagine the troubles we have avoided because of it.

We are required by law to have a working cb radio and a working cell phone in our truck, both turned on in order to respond to immediate problems and emergencies ahead of us. But the XM radio has given us the tools we needed to plan further ahead than we have ever been able to.

Don't try to tell me that tvs or radio can provide the same service. Most truckstops don't have a weather channel tuned on. And regular radio concentrates on the local or state area and only include other regions on an hourly report, if they cover it at all. If we have a delivery in Utah and we are in Virginia, well, I need to know all weather and accidents between the two now, while I'm routing my trip. Most routing is done in my truck on the road. And I don't have time to find a truckstop, find the manager and request the tv being tuned to a weather channel and hope there will be some mention about road closures, accidents, etc. And I need regular and dependable updates of that info while we travel across the country. I need up-to-date info. And I need it now. XM delivers. It is a tool that we have become familiar with and it provides the info we need.

Don't think that we no longer listen to and enjoy regular radio. We do listen to local news and weather. But local stations seem to think that we know what county I'm in at any given minute and what counties are in immediate or future danger. We don't. And I can't count how many times I've lost the station in the middle of a weather report.

The variety and dependability across the country of XM is a truckdriver's dream come true. No static, no losing the signal, variety of entertainment, and up-to-date traffic and weather reports. There are over 3 million truckdrivers on the road today and if they don't have an XM radio now they are planning on it. I have even bought my mom one for her house and her car because she lives in an area in the mountains where reception of tv and radio is shaky at best.

I am sorry that the competition with xm is causing NAB difficulties. But don't take away the most useful tool that truckers have had since abs brakes. XM listened to their customers and provided the tools and services that we have requested. NAB could do better by doing the same. Please reject the the NAB's petition 04-160 and leave our XM radio alone.

Respectfully,

Robin McDowell